

U.S. Serial No. 09/471,689
Attorney Docket No. YOR919990507US1
(YOR.153)

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REMARKS

Allowed claims 1, 3-29, and 32 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant's representative would like to thank Examiner Michael B. Holmes for courtesies extended in the telephonic interview conducted on June 28, 2006. Applicant submits this Statement to comply with the requirements of M.P.E.P. § 713.04.

In the interview, the following was discussed:

Claims 1, 3-29, and 32 are allowed.

Allowable claims 30 and 31 were amended by the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed on June 29, 2005, to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

It was noted that a Notice of Allowance was counted on September 19, 2005, according to the U.S. Patent Office P.A.I.R. site. However, the Notice of Allowance has not been mailed to date. It was speculated that the case is being reviewed for compliance with the new guidelines for rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

To expedite prosecution and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance in this case, allowable claims 30 and 31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the filing of a divisional application directed to the subject matter of these claims. Thus, the rejection of claims 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 has been rendered moot.

The Examiner kindly agreed to issue a Notice of Allowance in the present application as soon as the Supplemental Amendment canceling claims 30 and 31 is received.

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A courtesy copy of this Supplemental Amendment also is being forwarded directly to the Examiner via facsimile to expedite the issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that allowed claims 1, 3-29, and 32, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

It is believed that no petition or fee is required. However, if the USPTO deems otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,

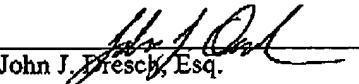
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (571) 273-8300 the enclosed Supplemental Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and Statement of Substance of Interview to Examiner Michael B. Holmes, Art Unit 2121, on June 28, 2006.


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